Trade vessel or vessels in lieu of the old vessel MV "ANDAMANS" to the continuity of employment from Calcutta 154 Home Trade seamen and 54 Bazarman/seamen to increase passenger traffic from Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands to Calcutta; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The Forward Seamen's Union of India, Calcutta has appealed to the Shipping Corporation of India for allotment of two passenger vessels on Calcutta/Port Blair service to be manned by Calcutta Home Trade seamen.

(b) MV "ANDAMANS" which plies on mainland/Andaman passenger service is the only vessel which draws her crew requirements from the pool of 154 Home Trade seamen maintained by Director, Seamen's Employment Office, Calcutta. Since MV "ANDAMANS" which is 32 years old is due for scrapping, the Forward Seamen's Union of India, Calcutta made this suggestion.

News item captioned Air India Exploiting Casual Labour

2686. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the INDIAN EXPRESS, Bombay dated the 18th July, 1989, captioned "AIR INDIA EXPLOITING CASUAL LABOUR";

(b) if so, whether Government propose to increase the daily wage of casual labour in Air India; if so, by which date; and

(c) what action Government have taken against such officers of Air India who were found responsible for alleged exploitation of casual labour belonging to the SC/ST?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Final settlement of wages for ground categories represented by Air-India Employees' Guild for the period 1-10-1985 to 31-8-1990 is in the process of being signed After signing of the settlement under the Industrial Disputes Act, rates payable to the casual labour employed by Air-India will be suitably revised.

(c) Does not arise.

Shortage of Man-power in the Indian Airlines

2687. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of Man-power both technical & non-technical in the Indian Airlines after the introduction of Airbus A-320 aircraft;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; what steps are being taken by Government in the matter; and

(c) whether Government have lifted the recruitment ban in Indian Airlines, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Keeping in view the need for reduction in expenditure and improvement in resources, in December 1986, a general ban was imposed on public sector undertakings under this Ministry on creation of posts and filling vacancies. However the ban has been relaxed from time to time.